

FOCUS ON THE FIRST

MONTHLY CONSTITUENT NEWSLETTER

COUNCILMAN CHRIS FORD—1ST COUNCIL DISTRICT
LEXINGTON-FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

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GREETINGS FROM COUNCILMAN FORD

Hello 1st District residents & stakeholders. Thank you for allowing me to share with you the inaugural edition of our monthly constituent newsletter. *Focus on the First* is designed to better inform you about the policies and services of local government, and our partnerships with neighborhoods throughout the district.

If you know of a neighbor, organization or business who may be interested in receiving this monthly newsletter, please forward this copy to them. And if you are not currently a subscriber, please email ttatum@lexingtonky.gov to be added to our email distribution list.

I hope you enjoy our newsletter & always feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Thanks again, CAF



Chris Ford
Councilman,
1st District

CITY INVITES NEIGHBORHOODS TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS

The Lexington Fayette Urban County Government is accepting applications from eligible neighborhood associations for the Neighborhood Action Match Program (NAMP).

Since 1986, LFUCG has funded this program to support neighborhood associations in carrying out development activities and improvements using the cooperative efforts and voluntary contributions of neighborhood residents, businesses, schools and other organizations.

The maximum program award to a neighborhood association is \$10,000. The neighborhood association must match all

funds it is awarded with an equal amount through cash contribution, donated materials, service or in-kind labor.

If you have an project idea or request more information, please contact the Division of Grants & Special Programs at (859) 258-3070. You may also view the application packet online at www.lexingtonky.gov.

The deadline for submission of applications is Thursday, October 31st at 4:00 PM.

CALENDAR:

Oct 10: Council Meeting
6pm

Oct 18: The Javon Jackson
Band with Les McCann Con-
cert (Lyric Theatre)

Oct 19: East End Mural
Celebration 3-5pm (503 E.
Third St.)

Oct 21: Urban League An-
nual Diversity Dinner
6:30pm (Lexington Center)

Oct 22: Georgetown
Neighborhood Halloween
Party 6pm (Douglass Park)

Oct 24: Council Meeting
6pm

Oct 31: *Halloween*, Lexing-
ton Trick-or-Treat 6-8pm

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EAST END—SPECIAL COMMUNITY REPORT

In the September 1, 2013 edition of the Lexington Herald – Leader, its Editorial Board published a *Special Report to the Community* on Lexington's East End neighborhood. I had the honor and good fortune to write an Op – Ed titled "The East End deserves Lexington's best effort."

I salute the Herald – Leader for making a concerted effort to capture the voices & opinions of a diverse representation of community leaders and stakeholders. In all, 10 contributing articles were published, in addition to engaging photo – journalism and descriptive East End historical sketches. Please visit the Lexington Herald – Leader online at www.kentucky.com to search for archive access to the special report.



MILLER STREET OK'D FOR RESIDENTIAL PARKING PERMITS



Living in downtown Lexington has many perks and benefits. However, at times a not so pleasant condition of downtown living can be summed up in one word Parking!

LFUCG created the Residential Parking Permit Program in April 1990 to address the negative impacts neighborhoods can experience as a result of too many non-resident vehicles using local streets for parking.

The Miller Street Residential Permit Parking was approved by Urban County Council on August 15th. Miller Street is nestled between W. Sec-

ond and W. Third streets, and runs parallel to Jefferson Street.

The Miller Street program is an enforceable designation 24 hours, 7 days a week. Vehicles parked in the area, belonging to either resident or guest, must be visibly permitted with a windshield sticker.

For more information on Residential Parking Permit program requirements, please visit LexPark online at www.lexpark.org or call (859) 231-PARK (7275).

DID YOU KNOW?? FIRST DISTRICT HISTORICAL FACTS

QUESTIONS

1. The oldest existing & unaltered concrete street in Kentucky?
2. The first organized neighborhood association in Lexington?
3. The first park dedicated for African Americans in Lexington?
4. The first neighborhood located outside of New Circle Road to be included within boundaries of 1st Council District?
5. The first horse racing - jockey to win the Kentucky Derby 3 times?
6. The first government – owned facility to be LEED certified?



(Answers on Page 4)

NEW LIFE, NEW DIRECTION FOR W. FOURTH STREET

If you have traveled westbound on W. Fourth Street lately, you've noticed a construction zone in progress. That is in large part due to many new & exciting capital projects underway. Transylvania University will open its new athletic fields on October 19th. Located at 555 W. Fourth, and next door to the Florence Crittenden Home, the new athletic complex is slanted to host track & field, soccer and field hockey, with long-term plans to also include football.

Moving further west, the Bluegrass Community & Technical College is settling into its Newtown Pike campus. With the relocation of Eastern State Hospital to its new facility in Coldstream Research Park,

BCTC will occupy the entire hospital estate. Its newly constructed classroom building has recently opened for classes in late August.

To accommodate the foreseen growth in this area, the Urban County Council approved the designation of W. Fourth Street from one-way to two-way traffic. In conjunction with the Kentucky Dept. of Transportation – District 7 Office, the city is laying new sidewalks along both sides of the street, between Jefferson and Newtown Pike. Lastly, the intersection of Newtown, Georgetown and Fourth Street is being redesigned to adapt to the two-way traffic pattern.



YOUTH: ANTI-VIOLENCE CONFERENCE & SUMMER EMPLOYMENT



Almost 225 youth, ages 14-17, gained valuable work experience by participating in the LFUCG Summer Youth Employment Program. The program is administered by the Dept. of Social Services, and matches local businesses, non-profit organizations and institutions. The youth workers are employed an average of 20 hours per week. The 225 youth employed in 2013 is an increase from the approximately 150 workers in recent years.

Also, a Youth Anti – Violence Conference attracted nearly 250 youth advocates, educators, community and corporate sponsors to North East Christian Church on Sept 5th. Hasan Davis, Commissioner of Kentucky Dept. of Juvenile Justice served as luncheon speaker.

Both of these activities were recommendations brought forth from the Commission on Youth Development & Public Safety. I recommended this Commission to Mayor Jim Gray in June 2011 & served as Chairman through early 2012. Today, I remain encouraged by the community leaders who work daily & tirelessly to improve the lives of youth in Lexington.

SUMMER FESTIVALS CELEBRATE CULTURE, BUILD UNITY

The Roots & Heritage Festival recently celebrated its 25th Anniversary with the traditional three-day street festival on Elm Tree Lane. An estimated 70,000 visitors enjoyed live music, good food, market vendors, & kid activities. A few other traditional summertime neighborhood celebrations are listed below:

- Brucetown Day
- Smithtown Day
- Winburn Neighborhood Weekend
- Georgetown Street Super Sunday / Dirt Bowl event
- East End Family Reunion
- Festival Latino
- 4th of July Patriotic Concert
- YMCA Back to School Rallies





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LEGISLATION—ON THE DOCKET

Each Council Member is assigned by the Vice Mayor to serve on four (4) standing Council Committees. I serve on the following committees:

- *Social Services & Community Development (Chairman)*
- *Budget & Finance*
- *General Government*
- *Planning & Public Works*

Many of the complex issues facing our local government are first vetted & debated in one of the Council committees. An affirmative vote of a Council Committee allows for the legislative item to be then referred to the full Council for adoption. Currently, I have introduced several items which are currently in Committee.

- a) "Move-Out Ordinance" aka Tenant Transition & Household Disposal
- b) Local Workforce Investment Service Area Designation
- c) Day Shelter Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment
- d) Elm Tree Lane / Rand Avenue Sidewalk Connector

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns regarding these items. Stay tuned for future updates.

FIND COUNCILMAN FORD IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Tuesday	Oct 1	Elkhorn Park NA—7:00 PM
Monday	Oct 7	Georgetown Street Area NA—6:00 PM
		Northside NA—6:30 PM
		Green Acres/Hollow Creek/Breckenridge NA—7:00 PM
Tuesday	Oct 8	Martin Luther King NA—7:00 PM
Wednesday	Oct 9	St. Martin's Village NA—6:30 PM
Monday	Oct 14	North Limestone NA—6:00 PM
Thursday	Oct 17	William Wells Brown NA—6:30 PM
Monday	Oct 21	Winburn NA—6:30 PM
Thursday	Oct 24	Castlewood NA—6:30 PM
Monday	Oct 28	Oakwood NA—7:00 PM

TRIVIA ANSWERS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

1. Elsmere Park, circa 1926
2. Northside Neighborhood Association, est. 1961
3. Douglass Park, circa 1915
4. Hollow Creek neighborhood (2001 council redistricting process)
5. Isaac Murphy, in 1884, 1890, and 1891. Murphy was an East End resident.
6. The renovated Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center, in 2011